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U.S. RESPONSE TO GORBACHEV ARMS PROPOSAL DRAWS CRITICISM

Termed 'Revamped Zero Option'

LD261609 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, 26 Feb (TASS) -- White House Deputy Press Secretary L. Speakes announced at the latest press conference that the president has made a statement which, as he put it, is "a response to M.S. Gorbachev's proposal on disarmament. "He confirmed that the President had sent his response to Moscow after "the appropriate consultations with the U.S. allies in Europe and Asia."

It emerges from what Speakes said that the U.S. position on the problem of the nonmilitarization of space, reduction of strategic weapons, and banning chemical weapons and nuclear tests has not undergone any changes. As regards medium-range missiles, the U.S. proposal in essence boils down to a revamped "zero option." The White House representative himself virtually admitted this in replying to a question.

As we know, the "zero option," of which most people will have heard, was put forward by Washington back in 1981 at talks on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe. It was unacceptable to the Soviet Union, since it envisaged unilateral military advantages for the United States of America. The "novelty" in this latest version lies, according to Speakes, only in the fact that Washington is now proposing a "3-year schedule" for its implementation.

Declining to give a straight answer to the all-embracing program advanced by the Soviet Union for full and universal elimination of nuclear weapons and its range of proposals on other questions of arms limitation, the Administration states the need to create "a greater degree of trust between the USSR and the United States" and to provide strict verification [kontrol] measures. A reduction in strategic nuclear arsenals is made conditional on the USSR's agreeing to the "star wars" program as well as on reductions -- and unilateral ones at that -- in Soviet conventional weapons. Also tied in with this are problems of regional conflicts, bilateral issues, and Washington's hackneyed question of human rights. As regards the issue of banning nuclear explosions, the United States of America has adopted a completely negative position, saying that as long as nuclear weapons serve as a "deterrent element" the United States of America will continue the tests.

The Administration representative was asked whether the President's proposal envisages the compulsory destruction of Soviet and U.S. missiles which are to be reduced "at various stages," or whether the United States of America will have the opportunity to remove them and keep them "for a short time" on its territory. The U.S. representative virtually confirmed that the United States of America adopts the latter stance. Judging from what he said, the United States of America would like to weaken the USSR's defense in the east while at the same time keeping U.S. military forces in that region. It would also like to block the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe by referring to the unwillingness of Britain and France to freeze their nuclear missile arsenals. The United States of America also refuses to pledge not to hand over strategic missiles and medium-range missiles to other countries.

Arbatov Comments

LD262127 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Report on interview with Soviet Academician Georgiy Arbatov by correspondent Stefan Babiak in Moscow -- date not given; portions enclosed within quotation marks recorded in Russian with superimposed Slovak translation]

[Text] [Babiak] Our interview began with a question: What is the difference between the Soviet proposal and the U.S. reply which arrived in Moscow shortly before the opening of the congress?

[Arbatov] "The difference is that the Soviet proposals put forward a clear realistic plan for tackling a whole complex of very weighty international problems. This plan is quite concrete and, in my opinion, it does not threaten the safety of any country. The U.S. reply, on the contrary, is an unclear nebulous paper on the usefulness of eradicating nuclear weapons. It speaks in concrete terms on one topic only: nuclear weapons in Europe. It will take some time before the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks will explain the details of this reply. However, its fundamental features show already that the U.S. attitude ignores the basic facts of international development, and this in the very area in which the USSR took a huge step toward the Western countries."

[Babiak] I was also interested in how Academician Arbatov perceives the U.S. attitude to the Geneva process.

[Arbatov] "I would like to mention that this process actually started earlier, at the time of the agreement on the meeting of Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in Geneva. For us this moment became the stimulus for making counterproposals and initiatives. As you know, there were quite a few of them. At the same time a discussion opened in the world about the crucial issues of disarmament, and it started in the United States, too. This political process has gradually developed and Geneva influenced it positively. Arguments have been going on in Washington about what will be the line of the U.S. policy. In my view, the Americans have still not made up their minds which path they will follow, whether they will continue in attempts to return to the cold war or whether they will seek a way forward. Ronald Reagan's reply has not convinced me that Washington has found the definite answer."

[Babiak] I asked Georgiy Arbatov in conclusion how he sees the prospects for the new USSR-U.S. summit meeting?

[Arbatov] "Comrade Gorbachev said clearly yesterday that a new summit might take place if it is to bring about positive results. If not, then another summit makes no sense. He also mentioned two areas in which it is the easiest to make progress: I have in mind the halting of nuclear tests and the eradication of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in central Europe. If these two items are on the agenda of a summit then Mikhail Gorbachev will be willing to take part in it. The date is no problem. Now it is up to the United States. We are waiting for an answer from Washington about whether the U.S. Administration is willing to discuss and solve these issues."

Chernyshev Comments

LD262147 Moscow TASS in English 2134 GMT 26 Feb 86

["Washington's Old Theme and Its Variations" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

The U.S. Administration has come up with a so-called answer to the Soviet initiatives set forth in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev of January 15, 1986. Although the "answer" has not been published officially about everything has been done to "leak" its contents to the American press in a bid to create a semblance of Washington's "activity" in the arms control field.

In the existing moral and political situation in the world the U.S. Administration has not ventured to reject the Soviet initiatives openly or declare them "propaganda" as Washington has done more than once. According to the newspaper MERCURY NEWS, to reject the Soviet plan would be suicidal. At the same time it has become impossible to remain silent on the subject of the Soviet initiatives any longer: in the definition of U.S. Senator William Proxmire, silence has become a shocking evidence of weakness.

So, another road has been chosen -- that of political maneuvering in a bid to split the complex of wide-scale Soviet initiatives, to single out as will its individual elements and to accompany them with the conditions that prejudice the security of the other side and are, therefore, unacceptable to it. Exactly this kind of manipulation has been made with respect to the Soviet proposal to eliminate the Soviet and American medium-range missiles in the European zone.

The Soviet Union is known to have proposed by way of a first step toward ridding Europe of nuclear weapons to eliminate completely the medium-range missiles of the U.S.S.R. and the United States, both ballistic and cruise missiles, in the European zone. At the same time the United States should undertake not to transfer its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries, while Britain and France should pledge not to build up their respective nuclear arms. This has been proposed in the context of the entire set of Soviet initiatives that clearly provide for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons of all types and everywhere on earth in a limited period of time -- inside of 15 years. This proposal is quite understandable, feasible and fair. It does not damage the security of anyone.

Commenting on the Soviet proposal, U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has said that it afforded a chance to take first steps toward ridding the world of nuclear weapons. History will not forgive us if we blast that chance, he has stressed.

But does Washington really need that chance, does it need the prospect for easing international tension at all? Has it reviewed its approach to international affairs to make it comply with a new thinking that is indispensable in a nuclear and space age? Isn't the inertia of Washington's postulates of power and its orientation toward achieving superiority too great?

The "new thinking" Washington style is epitomized in the American counter-proposal on medium-range missiles which the former head of the U.S. delegation to the SALT-2 talks Paul Warnke described as a not serious one. It is designed to give less informed people the impression of a "positive reaction" to the Soviet proposal. But in effect it is an attempt to thrust on the Soviet Union the notorious "zero option" that has never got off the ground. Washington has proposed two "variations" on the old themes and has even quoted some figures to make them look "solid".

The first "variation", according to American press reports, provides for a reduction of all Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe and Asia (For Europe -- to 140 launchers on each side in the duration of the first year, to 70 in the second and to zero in the third year, and for Asia -- year-by-year reductions in similar proportions). The second "variation" calls for the removal of all medium-range missiles in Europe and their 50 per cent reduction in Asia.

The U.S. Administration has refused to undertake not to transfer its missiles to other countries. It is also opposed to a pledge by Great Britain and France not to build up their respective nuclear arms. But these are the issues that are directly linked to the European balance of nuclear forces. The more so, that in case the Soviet Union reduces its medium-range missiles in the European zone the importance of nuclear arsenals of Great Britain and France will grow at any rate and in case of their further build up it will do so to an ever increasing extent. This means that Washington reserves the possibility to disrupt the correlation of forces in Europe in NATO's favor through the delivery of its missiles to Great Britain and an overall buildup in the nuclear capability by Great Britain and France.

At the same time a unilateral reduction of Soviet missiles in Asia is proposed, while no mention is made at all of the U.S. nuclear arms (U.S. forward-based systems) there. Consequently, from that point of view, too, the "counter-proposal" is devised to give the United States a unilateral advantage. Artificial "linkage" of Soviet missiles in Asia with the issue of making initial steps to rid Europe of nuclear weapons is without a doubt aimed at complicating the problem and putting up a barrier in the way of its solution.

But where is the observance of the principle of equality and equal security, where is the regard for the interests of the partner in the talks in the American "counter-proposal"? Can it testify to the existence of a true intention to stop the race in nuclear arms and mark the beginning of their reduction? More likely than not the true intentions of the U.S. Administration were reflected in a recent speech made by General Bernard Rogers, supreme allied commander Europe, in the French Institute of International Relations. He praised in every way the nuclear arms buildup programs carried out by the United States and Great Britain as well as the siting of the U.S. medium-range missiles in Western European countries that proceeds at full speed.

'Negative' U.S. Position Noted

LD270016 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2030 GMT 26 Feb 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Excerpts] Now on to the first responses to the work of the congress from the capitalist countries.

What has been Washington's reaction? After a month and a half of reflection, the White House has at last announced its reply to the large-scale Soviet peace initiative set out in the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 15 January. THE WASHINGTON POST notes that this reply was sent to Moscow with the intention of getting it published on the eve of the opening of the congress.

As you know, comrades, our attitude to the U.S. position has already been made known from the rostrum of the congress, including the fact that the President's letter gives no basis for any amendment to the assessment of the world situation set forth in the Central Committee's report before the message was received.

THE WASHINGTON POST itself admits that Reagan's reply does not contain any new U.S. negotiating position. In particular, the Washington administration has stated that the USSR's proposal for the destruction of all nuclear weapons by the end of the present century is not suitable for consideration at present. Why is this? A reply to this question is given, for example, by the current debate in the U.S. Congress about the draft budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins in the United States on 1 October.

U.S. concerns expect to obtain especially large profits from production of space arms. Even after the "Challenger" spacecraft disaster, some people in the United States try to pretend that nothing terrible has happened, and that work on the notorious Strategic Defense Initiative should proceed.

In Washington, a session of the presidential commission investigating the loss of "Challenger" is not under way. It transpires that a specialist from the Morton Company, which manufactures the rocket boosters, prepared a report several months ago in which he pointed out the danger of the spacecraft exploding, owing to a malfunction of the seals. However, the heads of NASA disregarded all these warnings.

Meanwhile it has been reported that the Pentagon is pressing ahead with new plans for launchings of shuttle-type spacecraft, and with the creation of a new aerospace aircraft, the X-30, which it is also planned to utilize for military purposes. And again, the military concerns are expecting to profit from it. The cost of only the first experimental design work on the X-30 is assessed at \$6 to 7 million, of which the Pentagon will bear 80 percent and NASA 20 percent.

To justify its negative position, Washington has recently been advancing certain other arguments, in particular saying that the West Europeans allegedly oppose the elimination of nuclear-missile weapons. They are supposedly very fond of U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles.

Kornilov Commentary

LD262033 Moscow TASS in English 1907 GMT 26 Feb 86

["U.S. Sticks to Same Old Stance on End to Nuclear Testing" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 26 TASS -- TASS political commentator Yuriy Kornilov writes: Widely commenting on a Soviet proposal to set up an all-embracing system of international security, which has been made at the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union currently under way in Moscow, prominent politicians, public personalities and the press say that the system should include an end to all nuclear tests as one of its more important integral parts.

That is right. There is no need to argue that to put an end to nuclear blasts is to put an end to the upgrading of nuclear weapons and block the ways and possibilities of developing ever new varieties of these deadly systems.

It is with this aim in mind that the Soviet Union announced on January 15 that it extends its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing for another three months and urged the United States to stop its nuclear explosions too.

Nearly one and a half months have passed by but Washington's reply remains a flat "no". Why? One of the "arguments" brought forth to justify the U.S. refusal to terminate nuclear explosions claims "verification difficulties".

A special panel on arms control and disarmament formed at a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee in Washington, for example, recently issued a report which contended once again that it was "impossible" to verify a ban on nuclear tests.

But the false contention has now been repeatedly refuted by American scientists and authoritative military experts themselves. It has been strongly rejected also by prominent politicians in the West.

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, for one, argued that the body of scientific and technological knowledge and experience accumulated by today made it possible to ensure the necessary verification of compliance with a treaty banning any tests of nuclear weapons.

As they apparently realize the flimsiness of their allegations about "verification difficulties", the advocates of the arms race claim also that the Soviet moratorium proposal is unacceptable because the USSR has by this time staged more explosions than the United States.

According to the authoritative Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), however, by the beginning of 1985 the United States conducted 772 nuclear explosions as compared with the USSR's 556. And the gap has increased even further since the Soviet Union declared its moratorium on all nuclear blasts.

These figures cut the ground from under the feet of Pentagon "hawks" trying to scare the man in the street with concoctions about "Soviet military superiority". In Washington they have brought into play of late also another "argument" meant to defend the U.S. negative posture. It is that the United States should not halt its nuclear testing because nuclear weapons are a "deterrent".

Those pushing this essentially militaristic postulate are not even embarrassed by it being in glaring conflict with their own peace-making statements about the need to do away with nuclear weapons.

No matter what angle one chooses to look at the problem of ending nuclear explosions from, it is more than obvious that all these "arguments" marshalled by Washington figures are nothing more than a cover story intended to vindicate their refusal to provide a positive response to the Soviet moratorium.

"The reluctance of the USA and its ruling circles to embark on the path of nuclear disarmament manifests itself most clearly in their attitude to nuclear explosions the termination of which is the demand of the whole world," the CPSU Central Committee said in its political report to the 27th party congress.

Washington itself adds more evidence to support these words time and time again.

Timing of Response 'a Riddle'

LD261658 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 26 Feb 86

News Conference by CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department head Aleksandr Yakovlev at the CPSU Congress Press Center in Moscow on 25 February -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified journalist in Russian] I represent the U.S. magazine BUSINESS WEEK. Aleksandr Nikolayevich, how does the General Secretary view the fact that President Reagan's reply to his proposals arrived in Moscow 2 days before the congress opened.

[Yakovlev] This is a riddle for us as well. [laughter] To tell you the truth, we spent all day yesterday thinking about what this means. I do not want to accuse the President of wanting to place us in a difficult position because the questions are too serious and the people are too serious to engage in such games.

But we understood it in the following way -- and this was stated in the political report -- that the U.S. side apparently wanted to receive a response to its proposals, to its letter, from the congress rostrum and for some sort of more extensive dialogue on a world-wide scale to begin so that people would know the two sides' positions. As you know, the Political Report did not contain a detailed analysis of the President's message but it is, I would say, more capacious and extensive than a reply, and that is natural. It sets out our fundamental attitude to the positions expressed by the President.

But, all the same, to reply to the question, I do not believe that U.S. side and the President waited especially to send their letter precisely 24 hours before the congress. I do not believe so.

[ASAHI journalist in Russian] The newspaper ASAHI, Japan, [name indistinct] Please comment on the sharp criticism of U.S. imperialism which, despite the forthcoming summit meeting, was contained in Gorbachev's report.

[Yakovlev] Well, you see, on my way here I heard a different opinion, that the criticism was very gentle. How can one explain this? You know, this depends on one's point of view. But I would reply in this way. Recently, yesterday or the day before, I read Mr Reagan's speech in Grenada. You know, I did not find one compliment about us in it. [laughter]

We are still, it seems, at such a stage of our relations that we are still a very long way from compliments. This is dictated by the state of relations itself, which we describe very cautiously, so to say, with cautious optimism. Some features are emerging, some things are improving. But as was stated in the report today, there has been no major turning-point. Let us remove missiles from Europe, then this will be a major turning-point. Then one can talk about a turning-point. Then one can talk more gently.

ILICHEV INTERVIEWED ON GORBACHEV ARMS PROPOSAL

LD222111 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Leonid Ilichev, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, was interviewed today by the correspondents of Czechoslovak radio and television. Stefan Babiak, our permanent correspondent in USSR, reports:

We spoke with Leonid Ilichev in particular about the significance of the Soviet proposals contained in the declaration by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. When asked how Moscow assesses the stands of Western governments to these proposals, Leonid Ilichev said:

[Begin recording in Russian fading to Czech translation] I think the wide international reaction to our proposals is a result of the principally new, far reaching realistic basis of the Soviet initiatives that show the way to the total eradication of mass destruction weapons and averting a nuclear catastrophe. The fate of mankind and the solution of its global problems depends on it. As for the stand of the Western governments, I would like to emphasize that this time they have not immediately rejected our initiatives as in the past. They are still studying our proposals and mutually consult their stands on them. We understand that it is necessary to study them carefully if they are to take a serious attitude to them. However, this process cannot be prolonged indefinitely. Time does not stand still. The mountain of weapons grows daily and international security diminishes accordingly. Therefore, the nations justifiably expect practical steps from the Western governments toward halting the arms race and improving the situation in the world.

In particular, I would like to emphasize the issue of nuclear tests. The USSR has prolonged its moratorium on nuclear explosions until the end of March and, in this way, has given the United States extra time to think things over. It must be stressed however that we cannot display unilateral restraint.

The West used to complain about the problems of verification. Now we confirm in all seriousness that verification can be ensured at the necessary international level, including on-site inspection. What is necessary today in particular is the political will of the West to approach this step. [end recording]

When asked how small and medium size countries can participate in implementing the proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilichev said the plan for abolishing nuclear and chemical weapons and improving the international atmosphere is in harmony with the interests of all states of the world. There is no other sensible alternative way of development. We are realists and we know that the new Soviet proposals require much effort to be implemented. What is above all necessary is to overcome the old way of thinking and substitute it with a new one that suits the needs of the nuclear era. It must not be based on stockpiling new weapons systems but on extending the cooperation of states, big and small, cutting military budgets, and using the saved funds for tackling ecological and other global problems.

We understand the term reliable security as security for all states, Ilichev said. Therefore our new initiatives are addressed to all, to big and small, socialist and capitalist countries. It is very important today that the small and medium-sized states realize how serious the current situation is and that they fully understand that a nuclear or chemical war will spare no one. On the other hand, preventing the threat of war, detente, expanding commercial, scientific-technical and cultural contacts is to the benefit of all states, including the small and medium sized ones because it increases their importance and authority. The USSR does not propose armament instead of progress, but disarmament in the interest of progress. That is our principle, and the small and medium size countries can play a considerable role in its reinforcement.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ARTICLE ASSESSES NEW MBFR PROPOSAL

PM241015 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 86 Second Edition p 3

[Article under the "Military Scholar's Opinion" rubric by Candidate of Military Sciences Major General V. Makarevskiy, retired: "Urgent Need: Conventional Armaments and Armed Forces Must Be the Object of Agreed Reductions"]

[Text] Eliminating all the nuclear weapons in the world by the end of this century is the main task of the present day. By that means and that means alone can mankind be freed of the threat of thermonuclear catastrophe. However, when making this problem a priority, the large-scale Soviet peace program set out in the CPSU Central Committee General Secretary's 15 January Statement goes even further. In addition to removing the weapons of mass destruction from the states' arsenals the Soviet Union proposes that conventional armaments and armed forces be the object of agreed reductions.

To some people, perhaps, this concrete initiative may seem inopportune. The main task has not been carried out, they will say, and other problems, which at first glance may not seem of paramount importance, are already being put forward. That is not the case, however. The USSR'S proposal to reduce conventional armaments completely deprives the militarists and politicians of the strength of their "argument" that the elimination of nuclear weapons will leave the West "defenseless" in the face of "Soviet military superiority."

But that is just one aspect of the matter, albeit a very important one. Conventional armaments in themselves pose a serious threat to peace. Furthermore, they are already sowing death in the world right now every day. They have already taken the lives of over 20 million people in the course of localized wars and military conflicts launched through the imperialist states' fault in the years since World War II. Although huge arsenals of conventional weapons have already been stockpiled they continue to be augmented with more and more new, more acute, and more powerful types.

According to a DAILY TELEGRAPH report, in 1986 alone the European NATO countries' armed forces will receive 500 tanks, mainly "Leopard-2" and "Challenger," 400 other armored vehicles, 100 heavy artillery pieces, 260 warplanes, and a vast amount of other combat hardware, weapons and munitions.

Without abandoning their criminal plans for launching nuclear war the NATO strategists are intensively preparing to wage nonnuclear wars, too. In their documents and speeches you increasingly often find such concepts as "general conventional war," "conventional war in the theater of war," and "conventional war in the theater of military operations" ...The Atlanticists' strategic concepts envisage the possibility of conducting successful aggressive combat actions using conventional armaments.

The so-called "Rogers plan" -- a new aggressive concept -- which has been adopted by NATO creates a special danger in this respect. In the operational and strategic respect it envisages using conventional means to deliver preventive strikes deep into the Warsaw Pact countries' territory. The "Rogers plan" directs the North Atlantic bloc's armed forces toward destroying the opposing Warsaw Pact countries' troops throughout their operational-strategic formation, the follow-on forces, above all the command centers, airfields, highway and bridge junctions, and other important facilities. What we have here, so to speak, is the transition from so-called "forward-based defense" to "defense in the enemy's rear." That is the description that this concept has been given by the Atlanticists.

What is it founded on? On what are its authors basing its implementation? Primarily on those changes which have occurred in the existing types of conventional weapons. They radically change the picture of the modern "battlefield." For example, according to figures from the London Institute of Strategic Studies, the depth of the single-shot penetration of a target with firing means has increased approximately tenfold -- from 50 km to 500 km or more -- in comparison with the war and has increased to 2,000-2,500 km using medium-range conventional missiles. The area of dispersed targets hit is now calculated in tens and hundreds of hectares, sometimes even square kilometers. Strike accuracy has increased by 10 to the power of 2: where previously 100 charges were needed, now only 1-2 guided missiles or Copperhead type charges are required. The means to place mines deep behind enemy lines by remote control have now appeared. Let us add that there has been a considerable increase in the yield of individual munitions and in firepower density.

Such are the qualitative characteristics of the existing "conventional" means of destruction. It is fair to say that they are already becoming unconventional and, in terms of their combat potential, are very close to tactical nuclear weapons. A considerable operational and even strategic effect can be achieved by means of them. West German military specialists have calculated that a 20-day "conventional" war using the latest types of weapons would inflict on their country the same damage as a 5-day war using tactical nuclear weapons.

NATO's military-political leadership is taking measures to create a new generation of conventional weapons. The whole range of the West's scientific and technical achievements are being used to that end. Ultramodern electronic means of reconnaissance and the direction and control of the new combat systems and munitions with exceptionally high strike characteristics are going into production. For example, the energy from exploding the so-called "vacuum bomb" will in the future be 10-20 times greater than TNT-equipped mines of equal weight. The NATO countries plan to spend around \$100 billion on the conventional arms race in the next 6 years.

The appearance in the armories of large quantities of new and improved weapons and combat hardware is being accompanied by changes in the organizational structure of divisions and units. The U.S. Army, for instance, is switching to an organizational-staff structure known as the "division of the nineties." Structural changes are also being carried out in the West German Bundeswehr and the armed forces of other NATO countries. According to the estimates of North Atlantic bloc strategists, the reorganization will make it possible to considerably increase military divisions' offensive strike force, firepower, and mobility, which should ultimately promote the more effective waging of combat actions.

The development and stockpiling of new conventional arms facilities and the modernization of NATO's armed forces should be viewed as a significant addition to the West's nuclear potential and a serious destabilizing factor. The times dictate the imperative need to halt this process and to proceed toward agreed reductions in conventional armaments and armed forces. The beginning of movement in this direction could be signaled by an accord at the Vienna talks where the question of the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe has been under discussion for many years now. The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies have the will to achieve success here.

A new manifestation of the socialist countries' readiness for concrete measures in this sphere was provided by the detailed draft "Agreement on the Initial Reduction by the Soviet Union and the United States of Ground Forces and Armaments With a Subsequent Non-Increasing of the Levels of the Sides' Armed Forces and Armaments and Related Measures in Central Europe," which they submitted to the Vienna talks yesterday. The Warsaw Pact states' initiative takes into account those elements of the Western participants' position which seem acceptable. Compromise solutions are being offered on a number of important aspects where there is no agreement between the sides. In particular this applies to the establishment of three-four permanent points for controlling the entry into and exit from the reduction zone of all military contingents throughout the period of the agreement's operation; the situation regarding requests for on-site inspection [proverka na mestakh]; and finally the mutual exchange of statistical data on armed forces in the reduction area. All this makes it possible to begin at the present stage the concrete formulation of a mutually acceptable agreement in Vienna. The ball is now in the other side's court. With political will on the West's part it may be possible in the foreseeable future to end the arms race and lower the level of the sides' military confrontation, primarily in Europe. This will undoubtedly make it possible to reduce international tension and will contribute to resolving the main task -- ensuring mankind's future without wars or weapons.

MOSCOW RADIO ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES

LD232123 Moscow World Service in English 1610 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Listeners have asked for details of the Soviet proposals to eliminate the Soviet and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. Here are questions and answers on this topic.

[Question] How many medium-range nuclear missiles does the USSR have in its European part?

[Answer] Two hundred and forty-three SS-20 missiles and a small number of old SS-4 missiles which have been gradually withdrawn. Last year the Soviet Union called off duty part of the SS-20 missiles deployed in its European part.

In response to the siting of U.S. Pershing II and Tomahawk weapons in Western Europe the SS-20s' stationary installations have been dismantled. Even earlier the Soviet Union had withdrawn quite powerful SS-5 missiles. So on the whole the number of intermediate range missiles in the European part of the USSR is far fewer than 10 or even 15 years ago. The Soviet Union has made such self-limitation for the sake of facilitating an agreement on a nuclear arms reduction in Europe.

[Question] NATO has been persistently alleging that the USSR has 441 SS-20 missiles. How true are such allegations?

[Answer] This is a deliberate distortion of the real state of affairs. On the whole, the number of SS-20 missiles on USSR territory, both in the West and in the East, is much smaller than the figure 441 cited by NATO. This has been officially stated by the Soviet Defense Ministry.

[Question] And how many medium-range nuclear missiles designed for the first strike have been deployed by the United States in Western Europe?

[Answer] According to figures for 1 January, the United States installed 236 such missiles in Western Europe. But the deployment of such weapons has been continuing, so this figure should be increased. Generally speaking, NATO has more intermediate-range missiles than the USSR today, since one should take into account not only U.S. weapons, but also British and French missiles. And with the total number of medium-range vehicles, aircraft included, NATO surpasses the Soviet Union in nuclear warheads about one and one-half times.

[Question] When and how does the Soviet plan envisage the abolition of Soviet and U.S. intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe?

[Answer] Already at the first stage, which according to the Soviet program can start this year to last for 5 to 8 years, there must be not merely a removal of both ballistic and cruise missiles but precisely their destruction. The destruction of warheads and delivery vehicles alike. As a result, the number of missiles would be reduced by several hundred units and more than a thousand nuclear warheads would be done away with.

[Question] And how will the abolition of Soviet and U.S. missiles affect the arms of Britain and France?

[Answer] Neither French nor British nuclear forces are entered in a Soviet-American count. However, it would be logical if in the solution of the issue the United States would assume the commitment not to supply strategic or medium-range missiles to other nations, and Britain and France would take the commitment not to build up their corresponding nuclear potentials. The USSR is also prepared for a direct talk on nuclear issues with France and Britain.

[Question] It has been maintained at various levels in NATO that the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range nuclear weapons can be considered seriously only after the USSR agrees to scrap its SS-20 missiles, deployed not only in the west but also in the east of the country. It has been alleged that having dismantled its missiles in the European zone the USSR could easily and quickly transfer them there from remote Asian areas. How grounded is such a supposition?

[Answer] The region referred to as the European zone of the USSR is the one from which Soviet SS-20 missiles can hit targets in Western Europe. As for the eastern part of the USSR, SS-20 missiles have been sited there not to be moved back and forth.

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They have been placed there as a counterbalance to the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in the adjacent region and capable of reaching Soviet territory. These include aircraft based at Misawa on the Japanese Island of Hokkaido. Following this logic about the possible transfer of missiles, the Americans could transfer their Pershing II missiles to Western Europe still easier and quicker since even now they are delivered there by aircraft.

U.S.-USSR MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS GROUP MEETS

LD271250 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Geneva, February 17 TASS -- The group on medium-range nuclear weapons held a session here today within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons.

BOGOMOLOV INTERVIEWED ON SOCIALIST INTEGRATION

AU261747 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 24 Feb 86 p 4

[Interview with USSR Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the Economics of the World Socialist System Institute, by Atanas Atanasov, "RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent in Moscow" -- date not given; first paragraph is paper's introduction]

[Text] The issue of further strengthening the socialist economic integration of the CEMA countries as a material basis for rallying the fraternal community has been stressed as an issue of primary importance in the new CPSU Draft Program. The international scientific-production trusts are one of the new integration forms of mutual cooperation and the topic of our conversation with Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the Economics of the World Socialist System Institute, with our correspondent in Moscow, Atanas Atanasov.

[Bogomolov] The draft documents of the 27th CPSU Congress express the party line outlined by the Moscow economic summit of the CEMA member-states. Our party considers it especially important to consistently unite the efforts of the member-states in the important direction of production intensification and to accelerate scientific-technological progress. It is, namely, along this road that we can solve together a task of historical importance -- reaching the leading positions in world scientific-technological progress. Prospects in this respect are clearly outlined in the complex program of the fraternal countries up to the year 2000.

[Atanasov] Are the necessary preconditions that guarantee the successful implementation of this high goal evident?

[Bogomolov] I could explain the positive answer to this question with our countries' successes in the sphere of machine building. The strategic role of this industrial branch as a catalyst of scientific-industrial progress is well known. In many respects it predetermines the stable and ascending development of the production forces. Today, the CEMA countries have at their disposal a powerful machine-building potential which, in terms of its basic indexes, does not lag behind modern standards. This is a clear achievement, especially when one takes into consideration the fact that during the prewar period many of the community's countries did not have a machine building industry. Socialist Bulgaria is a bright example in this respect.

[Atanasov] The machine building industry in our countries faces complex tasks at the present stage in connection with the reconstruction of the national economy complexes on the basis of intensive development. What is the role of socialist integration in solving these tasks?

[Bogomolov] The Moscow economic summit confirmed the course toward reconstructing the structure of mutual cooperation, so that it can effectively serve the process of integrating the national economies. The center of gravity has been removed to the spheres of science and technology, and the general utilization of the scientific-production potential. We have in mind the unification of the potential of the countries participating in the integration process along the entire production cycle of "science -- technology -- production -- marketing -- use." The new tasks naturally require a new approach. It is well known that the system of international specialization and production sharing in our country was formed during the period of extensive development, and along basic lines was subjected to tasks of the same character. Now it is being reconstructed with a view to producing the new equipment together on the basis of detail and assembly specialization.

[Atanasov] What new elements are being introduced at present in the practice of international specialization and production sharing between our countries?

[Bogomolov] The very subject of specialization is a qualitatively new element. Until recently it was developed only on the basis of already mastered articles, often obsolete from the very beginning. Now, especially after the creation of joint scientific-production trusts, new and broad possibilities were revealed for implementing the integration, from the very first stage, according to a uniform scientific-technological policy. This undoubtedly will guarantee the faster introduction of new articles corresponding to the highest technological standards. Here, too, we must point out the first signs of the new form of socialist cooperation -- the two joint scientific-production trusts in the area of machine building. As is well known, they encompass leading machine-building plants, scientific research institutes, and design-construction bureaus in the two countries. The trust allows the utilization of the two countries' scientific-technological potential in a much more rational manner and the creation and series production of articles on a high technological and economic level. These will include machines and equipment that will have a decisive say in scientific-technological progress, metal-cutting machines with a modern electronic structure, processing centers, and flexible automated production systems. Thus, not only the needs of the two partners will be better satisfied, but new possibilities for export to third countries are revealed, because this will be production of a competitive character.

[Atanasov] How do you view the prospects of the international scientific-production trusts in the practice of cooperation within the CEMA system?

[Bogomolov] The two Soviet-Bulgarian trusts are a form of integration that belongs to the future day of cooperation on a bilateral and multilateral basis within the community. If you will, their activity will represent a specific testing range for a number of practical decisions and theoretical concepts. The more our cooperation strengthens, the more the concrete questions that await solutions. For example, the ownership of these plants is still national. In the near future we will have to create joint plants of common, international ownership. For example, we still have to work out the judicial aspects for our joint activity and improve the finance-currency mechanisms. We still have to solve things that at first seem to be mere formalities -- connected with the operational exchange of workers and specialists by the joint trusts and, in general, expanding the so-called direct links at all levels. Namely, it is in the area of finding correct solutions to these and other issues accompanying mutual cooperation within the framework of the socialist integration that one must justifiably expect a great deal from the Soviet-Bulgarian scientific-production trusts.

S&T OFFICIAL ON NEW CEMA BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

LD262230 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] A press conference was held in Moscow today devoted to the setting-up of a CEMA Standing Commission on Cooperation in the Field of Biotechnology. Here is our correspondent Sergey Amelchenko:

[Amelchenko] The development of biotechnology is one of the most important, topical and -- as they say -- priority directions of scientific and technical progress, on a par with the development of atomic energy, the introduction of electronics and automation into the national economy, and the creation of new materials.

May I remind you that biotechnology is the use of living organisms, biological processes, and their products for the purposes of production, in the interests of man. The socialist countries have done a good deal in the field of genetic, cell and protein engineering, and microbiology. Biotechnology is applied in agriculture, medicine, and industry. And now, the CEMA countries have joined forces: A standing commission has been set up for cooperation in the field of biotechnology. Its chairman is Kirill Mikhaylovich Dyumayev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology. Kirill Mikhaylovich, what basic tasks face the new CEMA commission today?

[Dyumayev] We have selected 19 of the most important problems in agriculture, health care, the creation of a fodder base, and related issues concerning industry: the development of specific equipment for experimental work and for the industry that will put out biotechnological produce; problems of instrument-building, including computerization of equipment; the problem of training staff.

[Amelchenko] To what extent, in your opinion, will the joining-up of efforts in the framework of this commission help to speed up the introduction of new biotechnologies?

[Dyumayev] A great deal of positive experience -- individual experience -- has been accumulated in a number of research centers in the fraternal countries, and the use of this experience will play a very important part. I would like to say that as a result of this intensification we have managed to bring forward by 5 years the development of a new generation of veterinary antibiotics and to bring forward by several years more than 20 important biotechnological products needed in agriculture and health care. The initiative of the research centers and the pooling of efforts with industry will allow the fraternal countries in the coming years to have new types of agricultural plants, more productive breeds of livestock, and new preparations for use in clinics for human beings and in veterinary care.

SOVIET EXPERTS RESPOND TO HUNGARIANS' QUESTIONS

LD250615 [Editorial report] Budapest Television Service in Hungarian at 1900 GMT on 24 February carries an 85-minute "forum" roundtable discussion program, presented by Andras Sugar, and broadcast to coincide with the eve of the 27th CPSU Congress. All of its participants are from the USSR: Academician Oleg Bogomolov, CEMA cooperation expert; Vladimir Kudinov, deputy chairman of the State Commission for Science and Technology; Lev Voznesenskiy, Soviet Television presenter; Lieutenant General Konstantin Mikhaylov, deputy department head in the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, in charge of disarmament matters; and Tomas Kolesnichenko, member of the PRAVDA Editorial Board.

Viewers earlier had the opportunity to phone in with their questions and members of the audience could ask questions during the broadcast. All the guests speak in Russian with a superimposed Hungarian translation. Speakers are mostly unidentified.

The first question is addressed to Kolesnichenko. He is asked when the next Soviet-U.S. summit meeting will take place. He says that a date had not yet been fixed, but talks are under way.

Another viewer asks what the guests thought of contractual discipline within CEMA. An unidentified guest says that the meeting of delivery dates left a lot to be desired. This shortcoming is present in bilateral trade between Hungary and the USSR as well as between other members. In the future, sanctions would have to be introduced to ensure that goods arrive at their destinations on time and that they are of the required quality.

A viewer asks if the experiences of other CEMA countries were taken into consideration by the USSR in its economic building work. One of the guests replies that they intend to solve their own problems by starting out from their own conditions. But, getting to know the experiences of other socialist countries could be very useful, because some of these countries had achieved a higher level of economic development, and had started certain experiments and transformations earlier than the USSR. So, the ways agricultural problems were tackled in Hungary were of great interest in the USSR. The way scientific research is linked to production in Hungary had also been studied in the USSR with great interest.

A viewer expresses an interest in the recent spate of replacements of administrative and other cadres, and asks why they were taking place now, before the congress. One of the guests gives the following explanation:

"I think several factors played a part in this: First of all, the fact that the replacement of cadres in the normal manner might have been somewhat lacking for a relatively long period. In a way, we offended the normal retirement practice. It is possible that we did not always draw the correct conclusions from the criticisms that were voiced at central committee plenums and other important forums by certain leaders. But the time has now come to solve these questions. We have reestablished the process of normal cadre turnover, and it so happens that this is taking place now at a slightly more intensive rate, though in essence it is an entirely natural process."

Someone asks if Shevardnadze had any experience in foreign affairs before he became foreign minister. It was explained that in Georgia, where Shevardnadze was first secretary, they have a foreign ministry, so he must have had some experience in this domain. He also paid several visits abroad before becoming foreign minister.

The next question was addressed to Mikhaylov by Sugar: "I would like to pose the following question to the Comrade General: What is your opinion of the West's most frequently used argument against the reduction of nuclear weapons, that the Warsaw Pact would then gain superiority in the field of conventional weapons?"

Mikhaylov replies: "It is true that such claims are often made in the West, but these value judgments in reality completely lack realistic foundations. A balance of power has evolved in Europe, and this balance of power exists in the field of conventional weapons as well. This, by the way, is borne out by specific figures which I could cite, but I do not wish to bore you with them. I could, however, say this much -- pointing out in indices things such as the size of the population or the size of the Armed Forces, NATO has superiority over the other alliance in this respect. As far as battle-ready divisions are concerned, the situation is the same. I can even give you precise figures. NATO, the North Atlantic bloc, has a superiority of 94 over 78. As for the ratio of the number of tanks, a subject so often mentioned in the West, a balance of power exists. Both alliances have about 27,000 units. The number of artillery systems is also about the same. On the NATO side, there are slightly more antitank weapons, while the Warsaw Pact countries have a slightly larger number of tactical aircraft. But in the number of bombers, NATO again has superiority.

"The existence of this equilibrium is not only recognized and acknowledged, by the way, by us, experts of the Warsaw Pact countries, but also by some Western experts. I must add that several scientific research institutes, such as the International Institute for Strategic studies in London, also acknowledge it. What is more, the Confidence-Building, Security and Disarmament Conference, can, in accordance with its mandate, deal with questions of European disarmament in its second stage. So there are no questions of debate here: this is a problem only for those who want to maintain tension in Europe by trying not to see the necessity of nuclear disarmament."

Sugar tells the general that a viewer named Peter Szasz asks if there is not a danger of the USSR merely transferring its SS-20 medium-range missiles from its European territory to Asia and thus keeping them?

Mikhaylov answers: "The answer to this question is unequivocal. It has been stated several times already that all the medium-range SS-20 missiles will be dismantled and destroyed. Under these same conditions we perceive that the U.S. medium-range missiles should also be destroyed. So, I mean not only the rockets but also the nuclear warheads. We would destroy these as well."

Someone then asks if people were afraid of Gorbachev in the USSR. No, says one of the guests, within a very short time he had gained a tremendous amount of respect and admiration in his country. Another Soviet participant interjects, saying that in his opinion, many people fear Gorbachev and they had cause to be frightened; these were the inefficient ones, people who were in the wrong place and did not want to change. But, fear of this kind is to the benefit of the whole of society, he says.

The next question is concerned with technology and how it is transferred from one Soviet industrial sector to another. Then follows the question of whether the USSR possesses a space shuttle and what the Soviet attitude is toward such a craft. The guest evades the question by replying that the USSR has its own space program and is proud of its achievements.

A member of the audience asks if any opposition could be detected against the party's political and economic policies. A guest answers:

"Yes, such opposition exists. It comes from people who are incapable of changing, either because over the decades they got used to working according to the old ways, or because they are not adequately prepared ideologically or lack suitable work experience for the new work. The party tries to explain to people what is needed for solving the problems facing society. People must be given an opportunity to become better trained in their work, irrespective of their position in society."

He then recalls a recent television program featuring six ministers. After the program all the ministers went to the Academy (not further identified) to hear a lecture and become better trained. These ministers obviously had understood the need for change and were ready to improve their leadership qualities.

A viewer asks what the guests think of cooperation within CEMA. One of them says that many things have been achieved in the CEMA framework, but shortcomings still remain. These are generally recognized, and recently CEMA adopted a program to make it work even better. The new forms of cooperation proposed will achieve a deeper and more effective integration, he says.

Kudinov is asked how the adoption of new technology, particularly information technology, is progressing in the USSR. He replies that the foundations are now being laid for a system that will ensure that the best use is made of modern technological achievements. Hungarian scientists also have a very positive role in this, as he found out on a recent visit to a Hungarian research laboratory, he says.

A member of the audience asks if it would not be better for CEMA countries to purchase their oil in the world market, where it is now cheaper.

One of the guests explains that the price of oil is fixed on the basis of its price over the preceding 5 years. After 1973 for example, prices had risen later than on the world market, and to a much lesser extent. In 1981 and 1982 for instance, the price at which Hungary and other members had purchased oil from the USSR was barely half the current world market price. This year, however, the price of Soviet oil is somewhat higher than the world market price.

"The thought might occur to the public and to some experts that perhaps it would be better to switch to current world market prices. But why does it occur to them now, when the price within CEMA is slightly higher than the current market price, and not 4 years ago when the difference worked in their favor?" he says.

Sugar interrupts, saying that "the reason the question is being raised is that our Western competitors are now getting their oil at a very low price; this harms our own competitiveness. It is not that we have no sense of justice, because we know there have been times when we got our oil cheaper."

The guest replies: "But I think there are nuances in this question as well. After all, it is a fact that in the Western markets you can only purchase your oil with dollars. For you to produce \$1 you have to spend -- if I am not mistaken -- 46 forints. But for you to purchase oil with the jointly-accounted rubles, you need to spend 28 forints in Hungary.

So, if we look at the efficiency of the people's economy and at how much the Hungarian economy has to pay for its oil at a given place, then even at current prices, the oil purchased from the USSR is much cheaper, almost 1.5 times cheaper than oil bought for convertible currency."

A viewer asks how long Soviet people have to wait for their cars. The guests say that the waiting period depends on a lot of things, such as how good a worker the prospective owner is. When asked what car they have, the guests all claim to own a Lada, except Mikhaylov who says he owns a much more luxurious Volga.

Sugar then reads a question asking why there is no autonomous region or district for Hungarians in the USSR?

A guest replies: "The Hungarian population is not large enough in the USSR to warrant an autonomous district in the area inhabited by Hungarians. Also, where Hungarian people live the Ukrainian population is a majority."

A question is asked on whether the Jews are regarded as a nationality or a religious group in the USSR.

One of the Soviet guests replies: "As a nationality. They are a nationality. We do not classify this part of our society according to religion. So what it means is that just because someone is not practicing the Jewish religion he can still be a Jew. I cannot even recall at this moment the name of this religion."

"Judaism" asks Sugar?

"That is right, Judaism. So these two things do not necessarily go together," the guest answers.

A question is read asking what the Soviet Union can do to advance talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

A guest replies that negotiations are conducted by the DRA Government, which enjoys growing domestic support, and once Pakistani and U.S. interference in Afghan domestic affairs stops, the road is open to the withdrawal of Soviet armed support, which is there at the repeated request of the Afghan Government. The U.S. interferes everywhere in domestic affairs, he says.

The guests review the results of the antialcoholism campaign saying that shops selling alcohol have been closed, sober zones have been instituted, and road accidents have declined.

A member of audience cites a PRAVDA article entitled "Limits of Cooperation" and asks: In what do you see the critical points of Hungarian development?

A guests replies: "You know comrades, it should be time to get used to writing about the problems that exist in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, or elsewhere. The Russians open PRAVDA and read about the kind of problems the Soviet Union has, whereas regarding Hungary, they read about enormous successes, then even greater successes, and then even greater than the great successes. Fine, so you are successful. But how did you get here; what did you have to go through; what problems do you have? Tell us so that we will be able to learn from you."

So, I think that a great misunderstanding has arisen there; the worriers have brought to the surface a nonexistent problem: that our paper took a stand of condemnation. PRAVDA did not condemn anyone; when an article is not an editorial, but the name of the author appears, then the article reflects his opinion. After all, this is democracy."

A question is posed about Sino-Soviet relations. According to one of the guests, they have been improving particularly in respect to trade and economic matters. Political issues "regarding Vietnam, Cambodia, i.e. the three conditions, apart from questions relating to Afghanistan and the presence of our troops in the eastern areas of the Soviet Union" need joint settlement and now hinder normalization of relations, he replies.

Someone asks about Soviet-Italian party standpoints. One panel member describes them as being in agreement in many aspects, while difference arises regarding the Italian Communist Party's well-known view of Eurocommunism.

Sugar then relays the view raised by several questioners about the difficulties Hungarian individuals experience if they want to visit the USSR as individuals, instead of in groups. According to the reply, the reason lies in the unadvanced nature of Soviet tourism. "There are economic factors that must be taken into account. After all, the scale of tourism must be regulated because many more tourists would travel from the Soviet Union, and this would upset the accounting balance. Such problems have already arisen in the past regarding Hungarian and Czechoslovak relations, and therefore certain limits had to be affected so that the country's economy would not suffer harm. Though possible to overcome, these barriers, too, play a role," says a panel member.

Replying to a question as to why only certain roads may be used by foreign tourists, a guest replies that those roads are used "where there is a service network. If a car takes a bit of diversion, the car make break down and not be able to return; tractors need to be called. Really, it is primarily a technical problem."

A lack of tourist facilities, particularly restaurants, is lamented. Opening family-run or collectively-run restaurants is being planned, and so is the widening of the scopes of cooperatives.

A question deals with the demography of the USSR. One panel member says that birth-rate is no problem in the central Asian part of the country but the one-child family is frequent in the western regions. The solution lies in raising living standards and providing homes for the families, he says.

Another question is posed about the housing situation, and then discussion moves on to the relevant provisions in the current CPSU long-term program in this respect.

Someone asks: "Under what conditions and in what areas does the economic leadership plan the development of production or technical-scientific cooperation between Soviet and Western enterprises?"

A panel member replies that "it, too, is a part of those proposals that aim to regulate and develop our relations with the West. Technical-scientific links constitute an important part of cooperation with firms in the capitalist countries and of business cooperation, as does the possibility of purchasing those technical means that are interesting to us."

He then goes on to say that the West does not know well the high technical standard of Soviet Union and that there are still several artificial obstructions in the way of developing technical-scientific cooperation.

Another question asks about possible Soviet unemployment in the future with technological development. The answer is no, on the contrary, technology will create jobs in services, trade, and infrastructure.

A question is asked about economic crimes in the Soviet Union. A panel member says that to stop these, economic measures are needed in addition to the administrative ones. The death sentence for economic crimes is justified because of the damage done to socialist property and to the people; such a sentence is often meted out to managers who are supposed to provide a moral, model leadership.

The program ends with a round-up of views, or rather expectations, of the five panel members about the congress that opens tomorrow.

NATO'S ROGERS APPLAUDS WESTERN ARMS PROGRAMS

PM240908 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 86 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Speech by B. Rogers"]

[Text] Paris, 21 Feb -- U.S. General G. Rogers, NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, has delivered a report to the French International Relations Institute on the subject "Strengthening NATO: The Role of Western Europe." Repeating hackneyed theses about "the Soviet military threat," the general lauded in every possible way the programs for building up nuclear arms that are being implemented by the United States and Britain and the Atlantic alliance's plans under which the siting of new U.S. nuclear missiles is proceeding at full speed in the West European countries.

Rogers also praised the French Government's plans to modernize French nuclear forces. He did not conceal his satisfaction at the creation of so-called "rapid action forces" in France. This French Armed Forces formation, which is virtually a copy of the interventionist U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, is intended for carrying out combat actions in Europe along with the NATO countries' forces.

TASS VIEWS REAGAN'S APPEAL ON DEFENSE SPENDING

LD271009 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 27 TASS -- At a time when the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from the rostrum of its 27th Congress is appealing to reason and conscience of all of mankind in the name of ending the arms race and averting the threat of nuclear annihilation that is looming large over the world, Washington has openly proclaimed the intention to go ahead with its militarist course.

President Ronald Reagan, speaking on national television, declared that the administration will not allow any cuts in the rates of military budget growth either in the current financial year, or in the next one.

Praising the results of the administration's long-term programme of modernizing America's military might, which already cost a trillion dollars, the President credited himself with the development by the United States of such new-generation armaments as first-strike ballistic MX missiles, the Trident system, B1B and stealth bombers, the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles on the territory of Western European countries.

Taking into account the mounting discontent and anxiety, both in the United States and abroad, over the administration's line towards material preparations for war, the President alleged that the United States needs to build up its military muscle in order... to make talks with the Soviet Union a success.

War preparations, the President asserted, are one of the most effective means of preserving peace. "Strength is the most persuasive argument we have," he said, "to convince our adversaries to negotiate seriously... just as we are sitting down at the bargaining table with the Soviet Union, let's not throw America's trump card away."

Reagan publicised the White House's recent "new" proposal on limiting medium-range missiles, which is just a rehash of the notorious "zero option" that was long ago rejected by the Soviet Union as giving the United States unilateral military advantages. He favoured once again the militarization of outer space, insisting on the earliest implementation of his "star wars" programme.

The U.S. President made it clear that his administration is not going to limit itself to so-called "research" related to the Strategic Defence Initiative, but is already planning the immediate development of real systems of space arms. "We have to translate our lead in the lab to a lead in the field," he declared.

In order to justify the course towards militarization and pursuit of military superiority, the head of the administration resorted once again to confrontationist rhetoric, falsifications and crude slander with regard to the Soviet Union. He claimed that in the seventies, when the United States was neglecting its armaments, "The Soviets were the only ones racing". He apparently "forgot" the generally known fact that the Soviet Union was only forced to respond to Washington's new arms systems.

He portrayed the successes of national liberation and anti-imperialist movements -- a legitimate historical process -- as a result of Moscow's intrigues, as evidence of "aggressiveness" of the Russians. "We set out to show that the long string of governments falling under communist domination was going to end. And we're doing it," he said, quoting as an example the "success" of his policy of "liberating" Grenada, stigmatized around the world as a specimen of overt armed aggression against a sovereign independent state.

Reagan demanded that members of Congress abandon the very idea of reducing the rates of military spending growth of the United States. "We've come so far together these last five years -- let's not falter now," he said. Reagan also demanded that military aid to American stooges in strategically important regions should not be slashed. U.S. friends, he cynically declared, can fulfil many tasks at a much lower price than the United States. What the tasks are and what the price is are evidenced by the President's stream of praise for the enemies of the peoples of Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Laos, Nicaragua and Ethiopia, supplied with weapons and money by the American Administration and forced to perish in fighting their own peoples within the framework of the imperialist doctrine of "neoglobalism" proclaimed by Washington.

Observers note that the principal goal of Reagan's statement was to prevent cuts in military spending that would threaten the profits of the U.S. military-industrial complex. THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper described the President's speech as the administration's attempt to turn Reagan's personal popularity into a means of political pressure on Congress and achieve a shift in the heated debates around the military budget. It observed that following the summit meeting, support for the course towards building up military spending weakened in the United States, including at Congress. This view was acknowledged by a highly placed White House official who described the President's speech as another effort to push the military budget through Congress.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS ON SDI-RELATED PROJECTS

PM261422 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 86 Single Edition p 11

[TASS report: "Roaring Into Space"]

[Text] Washington, 25 Feb -- The Pentagon is expediting work within the framework of the "Strategic Defense Initiative," which envisages the deployment of space strike weapon systems.

According to the weekly magazine DEFENSE NEWS, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense is now paying particular attention to the creation [sozdaniye] of the X-30 space aircraft. Testifying at hearings of one of the subcommittees of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, Agency Director R. Duncan declared that this machine, which will be capable of achieving speeds several times the speed of sound and of entering low earth orbit, will be used not only to take payloads into low orbit but also as an interceptor of ballistic missiles. The U.S. Air Force hopes to receive the first prototype by the mid-1990's.

The total cost of the development work [opytno-konstruktorskiye raboty] is estimated at 600-700 million dollars, 80 percent of which will be born by the Pentagon and 20 percent by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). According to DEFENSE NEWS, the U.S. Air Force will start giving corporations contracts for the development [razrabotka] and production of the space plane in early April.

The agency, the magazine writes, is also conducting work on the creation [sozdaniye] of a top secret satellite under the "Teal Ruby" program. This program envisages the deployment in space of infrared observation systems that would operate jointly with ABM, air, and antisubmarine defense systems.

According to reports in the journal SCIENCE DIGEST, the U.S. Air Force and NASA are also studying the question of the creation [sozdaniye] of new types of space shuttles for putting big cargos into orbit, including some for the "star wars" program.

U.S. NAVAL EXERCISE OFF CENTRAL AMERICA REPORTED

LD262037 Moscow TASS in English 2008 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Havana, February 26 TASS -- The U.S. Navy has begun an exercise in the Pacific near Central American shores, which involves the battleship Iowa and the frigate John Hall, PRENSA LATINA news agency reported.

The Iowa captain told a news conference in the Panamanian port of Balboa that the maneuvers aimed to show to all that the United States was interested in retaining its influence in that part of Central America and to demonstrate U.S. naval strength.

The exercise, PRENSA LATINA commented, is part of U.S. preparations for major maneuvers of land forces in Honduran territory.

Working up tension in Central America, the United States has staged 14 large-scale war games with the participation of big naval, air and army forces there since October 1981. The exercises have involved a total of some 75,000 U.S. servicemen.

Over this time there have been 2,809 violations of Nicaraguan air space. U.S. naval ships have intruded in Nicaraguan territorial waters on more than 840 occasions. U.S. secret services have also committed a number of blatant acts of terrorism like the mining of the Nicaraguan ports of Corinto and Sandino and air raids on civilian targets in Chinandega Province. Enjoying the direct support of the United States which has earmarked them about 106 million dollars over the past five years, the Somocist "contras" have over this time staged nearly 4,500 armed provocations in Nicaragua's districts bordering on Honduras and Costa Rica.

SENATORS OPPOSE REAGAN'S PLANNED AID TO CONTRAS

LD270013 Moscow TASS in English 2351 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 27 TASS -- Eighteen prominent American senators protested against the Reagan administration's plan to supply massive military aid to anti-Nicaraguan "contras". They addressed a letter to U.S. President Reagan asking him to seek diplomatic ways for the settlement of the crisis in Central America and to support the efforts made in this direction by the Contadora Group countries. The letter is signed by such well known legislators as Edward Kennedy, Gary Hart, Alan Cranston, and Mark Hatfield.

U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY HABIB ARRIVES IN MANILA

LD270803 Moscow TASS in English 0752 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, February 27 TASS -- The U.S. President's special representative Philip Habib arrived here today for talks with members of the government, formed yesterday, and heads of clerical circles.

The White House emissary, on his second trip to Manila in recent time, is to ascertain the principal question for the Washington administration -- that of the fate of American military bases on Philippine territory. During the election campaign, marked by mounting anti-American sentiment, President Corazon Aquino promised a referendum on the issue of the bases.

NASA OFFICIALS 'DISREGARDED' WARNING ON BOOSTERS

LD262135 Moscow TASS in English 0924 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 26 TASS -- The NASA top officials disregarded repeated warnings that failures in solid fuel boosters of reusable spacecraft could result in a catastrophe. Roger Bogolie, one of the experts of the "Morton-Thiokol" company, manufacturing boosters for shuttle space ships, told a meeting of the presidential commission for investigation into the catastrophe of the space shuttle Challenger that a few months ago he prepared a memorandum saying that he was worried about the possibility of a shuttle blast because of faulty seals of solid fuel boosters.

PENTAGON OFFICIAL ON CONTINUED USE OF SHUTTLES

LD262103 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 26 TASS -- The Pentagon will continue counting on space shuttles, an under secretary of the U.S. Air Force said today at a hearing in a House subcommittee.

Edward Aldridge said the Defense Department would require at least four to six shuttle flights a year to meet its needs.

Aldridge added that the three reusable spaceships remaining after the Challenger tragedy were not enough to implement all the Pentagon's planned space programs. So he called for building another shuttle and allocating funds for the Pentagon to buy an extra number of disposable booster rockets.

U.S. CARRIERS LEAVE ITALY FOR LIBYAN WATERS

LD270957 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Two American aircraft carriers, Coral Sea and Saratoga, have left ports in Italy heading again for Libyan territorial waters. The 6th Fleet of the United States is preparing for another (?third) exercise in the south of the Mediterranean. Washington launched its campaign of threats against Libya last month after groundlessly charging that country with practising terrorism.

CANADA SUSPENDS TEST FLIGHTS OF CRUISE MISSILES

LD261958 Moscow TASS in English 1652 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] New York, February 26 TASS -- The Canadian Government has decided to suspend the tests of American cruise missiles over the country's territory, UPI news agency reported today. The Canadian authorities undertook the step after a cruise missile, during a test flight on Tuesday, went out of control immediately after separating from a B-52 plane. A group of Canadian and American military experts left for the fall site in the Sea of Beaufort. Harvie Andre, Canada's minister for national defence, said that the flights will not be resumed until the causes of the disaster are known. Missile tests in January also ended in failure. The Canadian population are enraged over the fact that their territory has been turned into a proving ground for advanced American weapons, and demand total termination of the tests. Jim Fulton of the New Democratic Party demanded that the United States take back its cruise missiles.

PYONGYANG RALLY PROTESTS U.S.-ROK MANEUVERS

PM251515 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "A Threat to Security"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 21 Feb -- DPRK working people are maintaining high vigilance and are fully resolved to thwart any U.S. provocations and to defend socialist gains, it was stated at a rally here attended by many thousands of people protesting the major joint American-South Korean "Team Spirit-86" military maneuvers.

Speaking at the rally, Kang Hui-won, candidate member of the Korean Workers Party (KWP) Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Pyongyang Administrative Affairs and Economic Guidance Committee, said that the maneuvers are part and parcel of U.S. imperialism's aggressive policy in Asia as a result of which South Korea has been turned into a major Pentagon military bridgehead and nuclear arsenal in the Far East. Therefore, the conduct of such exercises as "Team Spirit-86" poses a direct threat to security in Asia and peace and stability in the world.

He urged the governments and peoples of the peace-loving countries to condemn "Team Spirit-86" and to express solidarity with the Korean people's just struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea and the transformation of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear free zone.

U.S. VIOLATIONS OF DPRK AIRSPACE REPORTED

LD262047 Moscow TASS in English 2035 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Pyongyang, February 26 TASS -- As the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reports, U.S. reconnaissance planes today invaded twice the air space over the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea east of the city of Kosong on the coast of the Sea of Japan. The news agency reports that the intensification of reconnaissance flights over the territory of the DPRK coincided with the beginning of joint U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit-86" military exercises. 12 cases of the violation of air space by U.S. planes were registered only from the period since February 10.

ALIYEV STATES USSR INTEREST IN DRA WITHDRAWAL

LD271314 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 27 TASS -- "Ask your government if there is any progress in terms of preventing counter-revolution from reaching Afghanistan from the territory of Pakistan," Geydar Aliyev suggested to a correspondent of the Pakistani newspaper MUSLIM.

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Geydar Aliyev spoke here today at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists. Responding to a question from the Pakistani journalist if there was any progress in the matter of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, he stressed that the situation around that country could have long been settled were it not for foreign interference in its affairs, and first of all from the territory of Pakistan. "Here everything is interconnected," he said.

Geydar Aliyev said that talks were now being conducted through a representative of the United Nations secretary general. The Afghan side is doing its best to achieve the most acceptable accords. The USSR is very interested in ensuring a gradual withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, he said.

DRA REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETS IN KABUL

PM251029 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Commission Created"]

[Text] Kabul, 22 Feb -- A session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium has taken place here under the chairmanship of B. Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The session appointed a commission of the Revolutionary Council, consisting of 75 people, to draw up a draft DRA Constitution. The commission includes representatives of all the country's ethnic groups, tribes, social strata, and population groups. B. Karmal was elected chairman of the commission.

Speaking at the session, B. Karmal noted the tremendous significance for the country of the elaboration and approval of a draft constitution. The commission's creation is a very important step in the direction of the further democratization of public life and the successful development of the revolutionary process in the country. In preparing the draft fundamental law of Democratic Afghanistan, the Afghan leader pointed out, many factors must be taken into account -- the people's desire to create a truly democratic, free society, the national-democratic nature of the April Revolution, the traditions and customs of the Afghans. The future constitution must reflect such important principles of the revolutionary state as the economic and political equality of all Afghanistan's ethnic groups, the policy of peace, solidarity, and friendship with all peoples of the world, and peaceful coexistence and disarmament, B. Karmal noted. Particular attention, he stressed, must be devoted to elaborating the status of tribes and their active participation in all state affairs.

DRA SOCIAL, POLITICAL ADVANCES OUTLINED

OW270622 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0400 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Ivanov commentary]

[Text] The propaganda of imperialists and their parrots in Asia have spread many lies about Afghanistan's domestic situation and policies. These lies have created the impression that the domestic situation of Afghanistan is terrible, and that the rebels -- described by some people as freedom fighters -- have won one victory after another and gained control of almost all the territory of that country. Obviously, those behind these lies have fabricated stories on the basis of their own illusions.

Certainly, the undeclared war against Afghanistan initiated by the U.S. imperialists and their Asian lackeys is still continuing, and counterrevolutionary rebels trained at special bases in Pakistan, China, and Iran are continually harassing the Afghan Army and people and committing sabotage. Undoubtedly, this is inflicting more and more losses on Afghanistan. On the other hand, despite the strenuous efforts made by the enemies of Democratic Afghanistan, they can in no way force the Afghan people to give up the course they have chosen or affect the profound social and economic reforms being carried out in that country.

Despite the intrigues and schemes of the imperialists and counterrevolutionaries, Afghanistan has recorded remarkable achievements in all areas. Industrial and agricultural production has exceeded the level registered before the revolution. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has considerably expanded and consolidated its ranks. Youth and other mass organizations are developing and growing in strength. Projects are being carried out to improve land and water resources. A large-scale campaign is under way to eliminate illiteracy. Additionally, the elections of local state organs -- the first ones in Afghanistan -- have progressed smoothly.

The broad masses of soldiers and civilians, including the religious circles and national bourgeoisie, welcome and support the declaration made by the Revolutionary Council on the national democratic nature of Afghanistan's April Revolution and the urgent tasks at present. As described by Karmal, this declaration is, in essence, the basis for the constitution in the future.

The declaration states: The revolution in April 1978 was aimed at serving the national interests of our country and meeting the needs of the broad masses of Afghan people. The Afghan Revolutionary Council will ensure the equality of the people of all nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan, not only in law but in economic and cultural fields as well. The people's government respects and protects Islam and guarantees the full freedom of religious activities.

Additionally, the declaration points out: The purpose of Afghanistan's foreign policy is to promote universal peace and develop cooperation with other countries. This is a positive neutral policy and a policy of strengthening relations with all other countries. Afghanistan earnestly hopes to solve problems and conflicts politically.

The declaration also stresses that the traditional friendship with the Soviet Union has stood the tests of the times and has become a valuable asset of the Afghan people.

Drafting the constitution and publishing it for discussion by people throughout the country is another major step in Afghanistan's social and political development. It also proves that the position of the April Revolution has become increasingly consolidated.

AFGHAN REFUGEES RETURN HOME IN LARGE NUMBERS

PM251347 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Feb 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Exponents of Others' Will"]

[Text] Kabul, 24 Feb -- The KABUL NEW TIMES comments on the attempts by Western propaganda media to make much of the question of so-called "Afghan refugees." The April national democratic revolution, the newspaper recalls, was fervently welcomed by the people's masses. Broad strata of working people celebrated the beginning of their freedom from oppression, injustice, and exploitation. And only a limited number of people who saw the people's victory as a threat to their own selfish interests met the revolution with hostility. It was they who became the exponents of the will of the imperialist secret service, which incited Afghans to flee their country.

Even before the revolution, criminal elements and the most reactionary figures sought refuge in Pakistan, where they attempted to form organizations masquerading as detachments of "defenders of Islam." The notorious "Afghan refugee" question was raised of the mercenary counterrevolutionary gangs. Propaganda warfare was launched against our people and every available means, including deception, terror, and violence, was used to impel ordinary Afghans to leave their motherland and side with its enemies. Intolerable living conditions are being created for our deceived compatriots abroad so that the bandit ringleaders can incite those despairing people to commit crimes against their motherland.

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium's decree of a general amnesty has created a legal basis for Afghans to return from abroad. The amnesty applies even to those who have opposed the revolutionary government, provided, of course, that they lay down their arms. Since the decree's promulgation a large number of our deceived compatriots have already returned to their country, and their number continues to grow. Removing the obstacles placed in the way of those wanting to return home is the only problem. The DRA is ready to conclude an agreement with the governments of Pakistan and Iran to assist the voluntary return of Afghans as part of a comprehensive settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, the KABUL NEW TIMES writes.

REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PHILIPPINES

Aquino Press Conference Reported

LD261600 Moscow TASS in English 1434 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Manila February 26 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Almozov reports:

President of the Philippines Corazon Aquino gave her first press conference here today. Addressing local and foreign journalists, the head of state announced the composition of the new government of the country. The portfolio of foreign minister went to vice president and prime minister Salvador Laurel, Juan Ponce Enrile kept the post of minister of national defence.

Answering questions of newsmen, Corazon Aquino and members of the new cabinet who took part in the press conference said that elections to the local government bodies that had been planned for next May will not be held. They confirmed the decision announced earlier to convene a session of the National Assembly (parliament) which will annul the decision earlier adopted by the country's supreme legislative body to proclaim Ferdinand Marcos president of the republic.

It is also reported here about the reorganisation of the country's armed forces.

Aquino Cited on U.S. Bases

LD270936 Moscow TASS in English 0927 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, February 27 TASS -- President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines has ordered the release of the first batch of political prisoners within the framework of the proclaimed amnesty. The head of the administration said that she would respect the treaty on the American Clark Field and Subic Bay bases, that expires in 1991. "After that I will reserve the right of choice", Aquino said. During the election campaign in the country that had taken place against the background of mounting anti-American sentiments she promised to settle the fate of the bases in accordance with the people's will by way of holding a referendum. Meantime the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar stated in Washington that it was necessary for the United States first to get an idea of Aquino's policy and only then to decide the question of the volume of American assistance to the Philippines.

'Close Ties' with U.S. To Continue

LD262032 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] According to reports from the Philippines, the situation in the country is returning to normal. The streets of Manila are cleared of barricades and banks have opened. At the same time shortages of food and other necessities have been reported. Transport is at a standstill and schools and government offices are closed.

The country's new president, Corazon Aquino, has named members of her cabinet. Vice president Laurel took the posts of Prime Minister and foreign minister, and the Defense Minister Enrile has retained his post. Speaking to newsmen, Mr Laurel said that the new government intends maintaining what he described as very close ties with the United States. He also said that Washington is the closest friend of the Philippines. Vice President Laurel said that the new government expects the United States to increase its aid to the country and believes that now there are fewer obstacles to American aid than before.

According to reports from Washington, the United States has flown Ferdinand Marcos and his wife in a military plane to the island of Guam and stripped the former president of his powers. A major American Air Force base is situated on the island. Meanwhile, the American Secretary of State Mr Shultz said that the former president can find a safe haven in the United States. American observers point out that Washington adopted a policy of removing Mr Marcos from office because of mounting fears that the growing discontent in the country at his rule may get out of hand and assume an anti-American nature. According to official U.S. spokesmen this could have jeopardized U.S. military bases and military political interests in this part of the world. A spokesman for the military command at the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay, on the Filipino island of Luzon, said that the U.S. military facilities in the Philippines are second to none and that Washington will try to preserve them at any cost.

Marcos Leaves Guam for Hawaii

LD261920 Moscow TASS in English 1523 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] London February 26 TASS -- Ferdinand Marcos, former president of the Republic of the Philippines, has left the U.S. Anderson airforce base in the Guam island and flew out together with his wife and a group of followers to the Hawaii islands, REUTER news agency reported quoting a spokesman for the U.S. Airforce.

L'HUMANITE Cited on Habib Visit

LD241142 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, February 24 TASS -- The newspaper L'HUMANITE directly links the dramatic aggravation of the situation in the Philippines with the trip to Manila of the special representative of President Reagan Philip Habib. The developments in the Philippines took place just several hours after the departure of the emissary of the White House who had met with representatives of the opposition and the military leaders who had refused to obey President Marcos, the newspaper stresses. So far the situation in the Philippines has been developing in accordance with the plans of the U.S. secret services drawn up as early as last October. They provide for the weakening of the position of Marcos and, subsequently, his removal from the post of the president, L'HUMANITE points out.

SUPREME SOVIET, GOVERNMENT GREET THAI LEADERS

PM261938 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 12

[TASS report: "Exchange of Cables"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent a telegram to King Phumiphon Adunyadet of Thailand conveying congratulations and wishes of prosperity to him and the Thai people on the occasion of the country's National Day.

In a reply telegram the King of Thailand expressed gratitude for the congratulations and in turn sent best wishes to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The USSR Council of Ministers sent General Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of Thailand, a telegram of congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the country National Day. In a reply telegram addressed to the USSR Council of Ministers Prem Tinsulanon expressed appreciation for the warm congratulations and best wishes.

JARUZELSKI CONTRASTS U.S., USSR POLISH POLICIES

LD262045 Moscow TASS in English 2023 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 26 TASS -- The 27th CPSU Congress is of principled importance not only for Soviet Communists but also for other communist and workers' parties, as well as for the world community as a whole, in view of the Soviet Union's important role in the international arena, said Wojciech Jaruzelski, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, president of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic. He spoke this evening in the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress. The work of the congress is marked by the efficiency, openness and critical approach to questions discussed. The political report by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev is the main content of the congress and provides a sort of bearing structure for the entire congress.

The 27th CPSU Congress gives the grounds for an important conclusion: The Soviet Union which has the programmes of social and economic development for decades sets as its chief aim the safeguarding of peace on earth, the ensurance of the peoples' security. This meets the vital interests of all peoples.

Touching upon Poland's economic development at the present stage Wojciech Jaruzelski noted that the implementation of the economic reform of importance for the country is impeded not only by domestic reasons but also by external ones, specifically the policy of sanctions by some Western states with regard to the Polish People's Republic.

The United States' attitude to Poland is unacceptable for us, said the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party. I don't know what political and moral right the U.S. Administration has to punish Poland for tackling its own internal problems.

Poland has lived through a difficult period, one might say a dramatic period, in its history, Wojciech Jaruzelski said. But the most difficult things are behind. A satisfactory level of stabilization and normalisation of the situation has now been achieved in the country.

Wojciech Jaruzelski stressed that in the difficult crisis period for Poland's economy the Soviet Union had given fraternal assistance in the solution of the most acute economic problems. The USSR is a reliable and steady partner. We regard economic cooperation with the USSR and with other socialist countries as a long-term, strategic line, he said.

The draft programme of the Polish United Workers' Party planned for the period up to the 21st century has been made public recently. Its implementation is called upon to lead to a principled strengthening of the positions and prestige of the Polish United Workers' Party. This means, at the same time, the consolidation of the whole country, promoting the process which will be conducive to the strengthening of the positions of the Polish People's Republic in Europe and the whole world, Jaruzelski said.

DEPUTY PREMIER ANTONOV MEETS GDR COUNTERPART

PM211632 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Talk Held"]

[Text] A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, met 19 February with G. Kleiber, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and GDR permanent representative to CEMA, and had a warm and friendly talk with him. E. Winkelmann, GDR ambassador to the GDR, took part in the talk.

MARCHUK RECEIVES POLISH DEPUTY PREMIER SZALAJDA

PM261525 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visits, Contacts"]

[Text] On 19 February G.I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the state Committee for Science and Technology, received Z. Szalajda, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers Committee for Science and Technical Progress. There was a discussion of questions of the further development and intensification of Soviet-Polish scientific-technical cooperation.

MURAKHOVSKIY RECEIVES CSSR AGRICULTURE MINISTER

PM261153 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 86 Second Edition p 12

[TASS report: "Meeting Held"]

[Text] On 25 February V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agroindustrial Committee, received M. Toman, CSSR federal minister of agriculture and food.

Some questions of the development of cooperation in the spheres of arable farming, livestock raising, and the processing of agricultural products were discussed during the meeting.

ROMANIA'S PETRU ENACHE AFFIRMS TIES WITH USSR

PM251451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 86 First Edition p 4

[Article by Petru Enache, candidate member of the Political Executive Committee and Secretary of the RCP Central Committee: "Our Common Ideals"]

[Text] Bucharest -- The RCP has now launched broad activity by mobilizing the efforts of the entire people toward the implementation of the goals of the new 5-year plan -- the intensive development of industry, agriculture, and other sectors of the economy, and the attainment of a higher quality of labor and life for citizens, which will ensure that Romania moves to the stage of a medium-developed socialist country.

Alongside the development and modernization of production forces and concern for the high degree of efficiency in the national economy, the RCP now pays special attention to the intensification of workers' democracy, the enhancement of the role of the socialist state, and the improvement of the organizational forms of working people's direct participation in the management of society.

As our party's 13th congress noted in its documents, its consistent assertion of its role as the leading political force of the entire nation presupposes boosting the diverse ideological activity of the party organs and organizations and the consolidation of all educational factors to a higher level. Political educational work is focused on the task of arming all working people with the fundamental principles of the Communist Party and its revolutionary world outlook, defining specific aims for each sphere, and proceeding from the theoretical and practical activity of Comrade N. Ceausescu, secretary general of our party. In the system of ideological instruction at all levels, we ensure that study of Marxist-Leninist philosophy and the main works of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, and other sources with developments of the questions of scientific communism.

The RCP attaches importance to problems of the creative application, at each stage of development, of the common natural laws for building socialism and communism under our country's specific conditions; we must use the treasure of the socialist states' common experience and the gains of modern science. In shaping the new man and his progressive political consciousness, the party consistently asserts a daily practical socialist way of life, revolutionary humanism, the principles of socialist ethics and justice, and the equality of all citizens of our motherland. In this process of the multifaceted creation of the individual we are stepping up the struggle against the harmful influence of reactionary imperialist propaganda, retrograde mystical sentiments, nationalist and chauvinist views, and any forms of diminishing man alien to our world outlook.

At the same time, in our political and ideological activity we dialectically combine the course toward the development of socialist patriotism with the formation of feelings of friendship and solidarity with the peoples of the socialist countries, with all progressive and revolutionary forces in the struggle for socioeconomic progress, cooperation, and peace on earth. In inextricable unity with its domestic policy the RCP is also making tireless efforts to intensify its external propaganda, improve its content, and enhance its effectiveness. On the basis of the concept of our party's secretary general we are giving political and ideological activity and propaganda an assertive, militant nature.

The commonality of their systems and ideologies, and the lofty goals facing our parties and peoples in the historic matter of building socialism and communism, in the struggle for the elimination of the danger of nuclear war, and for disarmament and lasting peace urgently require the consolidation of the socialist countries' solidarity.

Our party and people and Comrade H. Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of Romania, highly assess the traditional relations of friendship and solidarity and fruitful multilateral Romanian-Soviet cooperation. Our party and state -- within the framework of the overall development of ties with all the socialist countries -- pay special attention to the consolidation of relations with the Soviet Union. This is a constant determining orientation of Socialist Romania's foreign policy. It is enshrined in the RCP Program and was reaffirmed in the documents of the 13th RCP Congress. In this connection the RCP secretary general's report at the congress stated: "I should like to stress the constant concern of our party and state for the continuous development of cooperation with the Soviet Union. We will continue to do everything to expand economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation with the Soviet Union and to strengthen friendship and solidarity with the USSR peoples."

In the steady development of Romanian-Soviet relations, a decisive part is played by the relations of friendship and solidarity between the RCP and the CPSU, particularly by meetings and talks at the summit level and decisions and accords reached within their framework. They have opened up new horizons in all fields of Romanian-Soviet cooperation. Great importance in this connection attached to last year's meetings between Comrades N. Ceausescu and M.S. Gorbachev, which lent new impetus to the consolidation and intensification of the relations of close friendship and cooperation between our parties and peoples.

The broad ties between the RCP and the CPSU are implemented in various forms on the basis of long-term plans. They include consultations and the exchange of opinions on questions of mutual interest and mutual enrichment with experience in various spheres of party work and socialist building. An important aspect of these ties is ideological cooperation between the RCP and the CPSU, which is designed to promote deeper mutual acquaintance with the two parties' experience in theoretical and propaganda activity, in the leadership of political-ideological and cultural educational work, and in the broad popularization of the historical achievements of our countries' peoples in building a new society, of their immediate and long-term tasks at the present stage of socioeconomic development, and of the domestic and foreign policy of our parties and states.

Evaluating the usefulness of actions and forms of ideological cooperation and of RCP-CPSU interaction as a whole, we deem it necessary to develop and improve these ties and to enhance their effectiveness so that they may serve the strengthening of friendship, solidarity, and increasingly close cooperation between our peoples. It is necessary for interaction in the ideological sphere, and for propaganda in general, to reflect more vividly and more dynamically the problems of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and production sharing between Romania and the Soviet Union, both on a bilateral basis and within the CEMA framework. I would also like to express a feeling of gratification with the sound cooperation between RCP and CPSU delegations taking place at various international meetings where wide-ranging theoretical, scientific, and practical questions are discussed and ideas and opinions are exchanged on topical problems of contemporary life. We are pleased that last December's Bucharest conference of central committee secretaries from fraternal parties on international and ideological questions, which discussed a wide range of problems of ideological and political activity and propaganda, made a new and significant contribution to the stepping up of cooperation in this sphere for the benefit of the common cause of socialism and peace.

Romanian Communists and all our people follow with unflagging interest and a profound sense of friendship the Soviet working people's creative activity. We highly evaluate their remarkable achievements in the building of the new society, which have transformed the Soviet Union into a mighty socialist state with a vast economic, scientific, technical, and cultural potential, and which plays a particularly important role in international life. With help from the mass news media, we extensively publicize these achievements, which are an outstanding contribution to the strengthening of the forces of socialism and peace. At the same time, we carefully inform our country's public of the present tasks and the measures being taken by the CPSU leadership at the new stage of the USSR's development for the purpose of improving the organization and management of socioeconomic activity, for the intensive development of industry and agriculture, for the problems of accelerating scientific and technical progress and modernizing the education system, and for the enhancement of material and spiritual living standards.

It is natural that, in this connection, great interest is generated by the draft documents and generally by the Soviet Union's preparation for the 27th CPSU Congress -- an event of historical importance in the life of the party and the whole Soviet people.

The drafts of the new edition of the CPSU Program and of the Basic Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and the Period Through the Year 2000 were covered in detail by our press. Together with the other documents which will be submitted for discussion and approval by the congress, these will map out the strategy of the Soviet Union's further development, of qualitative transformations in all aspects of social life, and of improvement of the socialist society.

These documents were the result of profound and comprehensive analysis of the contemporary stage of Soviet society's development, of the rich experience accumulated in socialist building, and of a comprehensive evaluation of present potential and the demands of the new stage of development. Their adoption by the congress of Soviet Communists will reflect the determination of Lenin's party and of all Soviet peoples to ensure a new upsurge of productive forces, modernization of the economy, accelerating the pace of the scientific and technical revolution and applying its gains on a wide scale, and -- on this basis -- to ensure the dynamic growth of labor productivity and of the efficiency of economic and social activity in general, together with the qualitative improvement of people's labor and life.

Our peoples need peace in order to devote themselves fully to the cause of peaceful building and the implementation of programs for socioeconomic development that have been elaborated. That is why, in the present complex international situation, we are facing more urgently than ever before the task of uniting the efforts of all peoples and all progressive forces in the struggle to avert the danger of world war, achieve a transition to disarmament -- primarily nuclear disarmament -- and to ensure lasting peace on the planet. Our party and the Romanian people acclaimed and unanimously support the new proposals contained in the comprehensive program of disarmament measures which was put forward 15 January 1986 by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Attaching very great significance to this program, our party considers that its implementation will avert the most serious danger which is threatening life itself on our planet. That is why we must support this program most resolutely and aim at its implementation.

In close cooperation with the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, and the democratic, progressive, and anti-imperialist forces, Romania will spare no efforts to ensure that 1986, proclaimed to be International Peace Year by the United Nations, marks a real progress in the cause of disarmament and primarily nuclear disarmament, for the sake of implementing the peoples' sacred right to live beneath a sky of peace and constructive cooperation without fear of the danger of nuclear conflagration and annihilation of civilization.

On the eve of the 27th CPSU Congress, we wholeheartedly wish Soviet Communists and the working people in the neighboring friendly country total success in implementing the imposing programs for peaceful building, prosperity, and happiness!

GDR LEADERS ATTEND USSR ARMY DAY CELEBRATION

PM201031 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Feb 86 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "In Honor of the Glorious Anniversary"]

[Text] Berlin, 19 Feb -- A ceremonial meeting of generals, officers, and employees of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany was held in Wuensdorf to mark the 68th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. A report was delivered by Lieutenant General N. Kalinin, first deputy commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

The meeting was attended by E. Krenz and E. Mueckenberger, members of the SED Central Committee Politburo; Army General H. Kessler, GDR minister of national defense; and other GDR political and military figures.

In connection with the noteworthy date, a message of congratulations from the SED Central Committee and the GDR State Council and Council of Ministers was read out. The valiant Soviet Army, the message says, is a reliable guarantee of the defense of socialism and life on our planet. GDR citizens resolutely support the all-embracing Soviet proposals on arms limitation and disarmament. They express deep gratitude to the servicemen of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, who, in close fraternity in arms with the servicemen of the GDR National People's Army, selflessly fulfill their military duty. Together with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries, the GDR will continue to make every effort to ensure peace throughout the world and the normalization of the international situation.

POLISH TRADE UNION DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

PM251045 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Feb 86 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Guests from Poland"]

[Text] A National Trade Union Accord delegation headed by Deputy Chairman (Z. Cherpka) has been in the Soviet Union at the AUCCTU's invitation. The Polish guests had meetings and conversations at the AUCCTU, the Komsomol Central Committee, the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Belorussian Trade Union Council. They visited a number of industrial enterprises, and became acquainted with working people's working and living conditions, Soviet trade unions' ideological, educational, mass cultural activity and youth work, and the trade union cadre training system.

The delegation was received by AUCCTU Secretaries L.A. Zemlyannikova and K. Yu. Matskyavichyus.

EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM CITES SDI INEFFECTIVENESS

PM261537 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 Feb 86 p 10

[Report by TASS correspondent A. Borodin: "Groundless Claims"]

[Text] London -- Yesterday there was an international symposium at the headquarters of the Greater London Council on the theme "Can 'Star Wars' Ensure the Defense of Europe?" It was attended by representatives of a number of West European countries and the United States.

D. Healey, member of the British Labor Party's "Shadow Cabinet," called the U.S. Administration's claims about the defensive nature of the "star wars" program groundless. By implementing the "Strategic Defense Initiative," he stressed, the United States intends to achieve a nuclear monopoly, create a powerful "shield," and under its cover acquire the potential to deliver a nuclear strike with impunity. It is the profound belief of the peoples of the European states that not only the deployment, but the actual development [razrabotka] of an antimissile system with space-based elements, including research work on it, would be an unprecedented spur to the arms race. It would divert funds necessary for solving acute domestic problems to military purposes, and would bring the world nearer to a nuclear catastrophe. The Conservative government has ignored Britain's true interests by agreeing to participate in the U.S. "star wars" program, the Labor Party figure stressed.

Using specific figures and diagrams, Professor G. Brauch of Stuttgart University (FRG) convincingly demonstrated that the "Strategic Defense Initiative" [SDI] would not safeguard the security of the West European peoples. Moreover, work to implement it contravenes the UN Charter and the aims of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

J. Pike, assistant director for space research at the Federation of American Scientists, urged the governments and peoples of West European countries to abandon their illusions that the U.S. Administration will enable the allies to participate in research work on SDI on an equal basis. There is an enormous gulf between U.S. promises and reality, he noted.

BIG BUSINESS HINDERS FRG CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS

LD241849 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 24 TASS -- TASS commentator Lev Aksyonov writes:

Most of those against whom proceedings were instituted by the West German law enforcement bodies in the case of payoffs to political parties by big monopolies have avoided punishment. This follows from an inquiry carried out by the DPA agency nationwide. An investigation has been suspended into more than 1,050 cases, into which proceedings were started in Bonn and other cities.

An analysis of this data is proof that influential West German forces intend to protect as much as possible the exposures in the "Flick Affair" in the hope that the affair itself will be gradually forgotten. Exceptions were made only in cases when it was no longer possible to save politicians from responsibility. Among major figures, only Rainer Barzel was sacrificed. After payoffs were exposed, that CDU figure was forced to resign as Bundestag president.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WESTERN EUROPE

At present a trial is under way in the West German capital in the affair of two former federal economics ministers Otto Lambsdorff and Hans Friderichs. Yet no end is to be seen to the investigation.

The history of the investigation into the "Flick Affair" convincingly demonstrates that in the "society of equal opportunities," in a "state of the law," as official propaganda pompously describes the FRG, big business and the politicians expressing the latter's interests are out of the reach of law. Not surprisingly that prosecuting attorneys had to end proceedings into hundreds of cases because of a "lack of evidence." This is the effect of the millions donated by the concerns to major political parties. As a result crime remains unpunished.

USSR SAID TO INTERVENE IN LEBANESE COMMUNISTS' DEATHS

NC261619 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, a member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Organization in Lebanon, met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami today. During the session, 'Abbas conveyed the Syrian leadership's support for the formation of a national command in Lebanon.

'Abbas noted that an expanded meeting will be held in Damascus next week, and will be attended by Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, as well as 'Isam al-Mahayri, George Hawi, and 'Asim Qansuh.

In addition, 'Abbas passed along the Syrian leadership's condemnation of the kidnappings and assassinations taking place in West Beirut. He said that these serve Lebanon's enemies.

Meanwhile, we have learned that the Syrian observers in West Beirut have been summoned to 'Anjar for consultations with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] on the security situation in West Beirut. Colonel 'Abd al-Salam al-Daghastani, commander of the Syrian observers in Lebanon, was also present.

According to our information, these consultations were the result of pressure brought to bear on Damascus by communist parties in the Middle East. These parties gave senior officials the job of discussing the assassination of Communist Party cadres in West Beirut. It has been reported that the Soviet Union directly intervened in the question of the assassination of two Lebanese Communists.

SECURITY STRENGTHENED AROUND EMBASSY IN BEIRUT

NC262048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] According to security reports, the guard around the Soviet Embassy was tightened today. Members of this guard, who belong to local parties and organizations, have been observed in continuous movement around the embassy and in the streets surrounding it. According to the same reports, the guards have prevented anyone from approaching the embassy gates or traversing nearby pavements. They have confined entry and exit to a side door leading onto the Al-Mazra'ah-Mar Ilyas road.

PRAVDA CITES IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT

PM261527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 86 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Iraqi Communists' Appeal"]

[Text] Damascus, 19 Feb -- The Iraqi Communist Party has sharply denounced the escalation of hostilities on the Iran-Iraq front. A statement issued here by an official spokesman for the Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee Politburo draws attention to the increased danger of direct armed intervention by the forces of imperialism that are now trying to exploit the aggravation of the conflict for their own interests. This is creating a real threat to peace and security throughout the Near East region.

The Iraqi Communists, the document says, call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of both sides' troops to international borders. A just peace is the only way out of the protracted, destructive war, the statement emphasizes.

IZVESTIYA DISCUSSES SOVIET-SAUDI RELATIONS

PM181106 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 2

[V. Yuryev article: "Invariable Principles"]

[Text] The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Saudi Arabia falls on 16 February 1986. The Soviet Union was the first foreign power to declare its recognition for the independent state that had then been created on the Arabian peninsula, thereby giving it moral and political support. At the time this support was of considerable significance, since the unifying efforts of 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibn Sa'ud, the founder of the future kingdom, were aimed at resolutely opposing the imperialist powers.

The note sent to Ibn Sa'ud 16 February 1926 read: "The Soviet Government, on the basis of the principle of the self-determination of peoples and profoundly respecting the will that the Hejazi people expressed in electing you their king, recognizes Your Majesty as King of the Hejaz and Sultan of the Najd and adjoining regions. The Soviet Government thereby considers itself to be in a state of normal diplomatic relations with Your Majesty's government."

Ibn Sa'ud's reply message read: "My government expresses its gratitude and its complete readiness for relations with the Soviet Government, which are inherent for friendly powers."

The establishment of diplomatic relations made it possible for the two countries to actively develop political and trade links with each other. In June 1927 in Jeddah the first Soviet steamer arrived carrying prime necessities: kerosene, flour, and sugar, which the Saudi population desperately needed at the time.

Political contacts in those years had a notable place in Soviet-Saudi relations. In May-June 1932 a Saudi Government delegation headed by Prince Faysal, King Ibn Sa'ud's son and foreign minister, paid an official visit to the Soviet Union. The message from the king that he handed to M.I. Kalinin spoke of Saudi Arabia's desire to "strengthen the beautiful feelings of friendship and love" between the two countries. The Soviet side expressed support for Saudi Arabia's independent socioeconomic development and readiness for all-around cooperation.

The accord converting the Soviet diplomatic agency and consulate general in Jeddah into a diplomatic mission in January 1930 was evidence of the heightened level of relations between the two countries.

In the years that have passed there have been fundamental changes in world politics and international relations. However, the principles of equal rights and respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs that were proclaimed as the norm of mutual relations among states in the Soviet power's very first decrees continues to be the cornerstone of Soviet foreign policy. It is on that basis that the Soviet Union's relations with Saudi Arabia have been founded; they are built on that same basis today and will continue to be so in the future.

The USSR understands and supports Saudi Arabia's desire to strive together with the other Arab countries for a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the implementation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The Soviet Union's firm and principled course in these questions is assessed on its merits in Saudi Arabia, which has repeatedly been stated by Saudi leaders, including King Fahd.

The Soviet Union shares Saudi Arabia's concern in connection with the tense and explosive situation in the Persian Gulf region. The USSR supports the demands of the Persian Gulf states, which oppose foreign military presence and the creation of foreign military bases there. The peoples of the countries in the region can resolve their own affairs themselves and manage their own natural resources without outside interference.

Saudi Arabia is the largest oil-producing state in the Near East and has achieved notable successes in economic development by relying on its oil income. The path the country has traveled is recalled by this episode: In the far-off twenties kerosene was one of the goods in shortest supply in Jeddah and the inhabitants awaited the arrival of the Soviet steamer and its oil products with impatience.

Today some people would like the facts attesting to relations of friendship and equal mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and the Arab countries to be forgotten. Instead they try any method to impose on the Arabs -- and particularly the leaders of the oil-producing states of the Persian Gulf -- the hackneyed thesis of the "USSR's historical desire for access to warm waters" and dependence on the Gulf countries' oil.

However, these fabrications will not mislead the Persian Gulf states. Evidence of that is the adoption last year by the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates of a decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and exchange diplomatic representatives at ambassadorial level.

Noting today the great landmark in the history of Soviet-Arab ties -- the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Saudi Arabia -- Soviet people send their best wishes to the people of that country,

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER REMARKS ON SOVIET TIES

PM270859 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 9, 21-27 Feb 86 (signed to press 20 Feb 86)
pp 6, 7

[Interview with Dante Caputo, Argentine minister of foreign relations and worship,
by V. Polyakovskiy, ZA RUBEZHOM Latin American editor: "A Most Important Initiative"]

[Excerpts] [Polyakovskiy] The desire to develop relations with the Soviet Union is growing in many Latin American countries. This trend is natural -- it is the result of close and, at time, coinciding stands on important international issues. Soviet initiatives directed at preventing a nuclear catastrophe, curbing the arms race, and transferring freed resources to economic development, which has been paralyzed in most Latin American states because of multibillion dollar foreign debts, have met with approval on the continent. The USSR builds its relations with Latin American countries on the basis of the principles of respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. A testimony to the successful development of these relations was provided by the recent visits to Moscow by the foreign ministers of the continent's two major powers: Brazil and Argentina.

[Caputo] Despite different social systems, Argentina and the USSR adhere to the same or close stands on important international issues. The point is primarily to ensure peace and universal security and suspend preparatory work for "star wars." Both sides are for strengthening peace, curbing the nuclear arms race, and effective measures in the sphere of disarmament.

Diverting enormous economic resources that are used to create instruments of destruction, when millions of people in the world are starving, is immoral. It is necessary to end the arms race as quickly as possible. Seeing, as does the Soviet Union, the connection between disarmament and development, we consider it necessary to transfer resources that are now being spent on arms to peaceful aims. In the joint Argentine-Soviet communique we supported the establishment of a new world economic order and the beginning of global talks on the most important international economic problems, including disarmament. We agree that the enormous and ever-increasing foreign debt is an insurmountable obstacle on the path of the socioeconomic progress of developing countries, to which Argentina belongs. In our country interest was aroused by the proposals on democratizing the structure of financial organizations, reducing bank discount rates (incidentally, half of Argentina's foreign debt is the result of these rates), and abandoning protectionism in trade relations that were contained in the memorandum of the USSR Government sent to the UN secretary general.

Argentina, like the USSR, is concerned about Great Britain establishing a large military base on the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, which leads to a militarization of the south Atlantic and an intensification of the threat to peace and security.

Our viewpoints also coincide concerning the growing role of the Nonaligned Movement as a major international factor acting to improve the atmosphere in the world, halt the arms race, and for development and cooperation between states on the basis of justice and equality.

Argentina and the Soviet Union can serve as a good example of implementing the policy of peaceful coexistence of states and equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in all spheres based on respect for each other's interest, positions, and viewpoints.

As a matter of fact, the existing relations between us are of a friendly and progressive nature, and are becoming increasingly dynamic.

They are multifaceted and are gaining concrete substance. Political ties -- I am convinced that the Argentine-Soviet protocol of consultations signed during my recent stay in Moscow will intensify them -- and interparliamentary contacts are developing. The further expansion of cooperation will be promoted by the intergovernmental agreement on the delivery of cereals and soybeans from Argentina to the USSR for 1986-90 that was signed in Moscow, an exchange of letters on the delivery of Soviet machines and equipment to Argentina, and the agreement on cultural and scientific ties. The mutual desire to step up efforts for realizing the program of cooperation in the sphere of science and technology, adopted in 1984, will play an important role. A firm intention has been expressed to proceed along the path of deepening Argentine-Soviet cooperation in various spheres on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect, and noninterference.

The upcoming 1986 visit to the USSR by President Raul Alfonsin will be a major landmark in developing bilateral relations and a very striking display of friendship between our countries.

SALVADORAN ANTIREBEL CAMPAIGN 'FAILING'

PM241003 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Feb 86 p 3

[Aleksandr Nikolin "Commentator's Opinion"; "Failure of the Phoenix Operation"]

[Text] Near the (Guasape) Volcano, which is only 24 km from the Salvadoran capital, the large-scale antirebel operation code-named "Phoenix" is now in its 2d month. It was devised by American advisers. Many of them are directly taking part in punitive actions.

However, the more than 4,000 officers and men of Duarte's army cannot defeat the resistance of the patriots. The troops vent their anger against the peaceful populace using the "scorched earth" tactic. "Everything is happening just as it did in Vietnam," the Paris journal AFRIQUE-ASIE notes.

On advice from Washington, the Salvadoran authorities obstinately refuse to offer the rebels peace talks to regulate the situation in the country. As the Spanish news agency EFE reports, 50 percent of El Salvador's state budget in this fiscal year will be spent on military purposes. This means that hundreds more citizens will be killed or maimed, or will die of starvation or illness.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran economic situation is catastrophic. During 6 years of civil war the standard of living there has decreased by 30 percent. Unemployment and part-time employment have reached 50 percent, and inflation is 30 percent. Production is declining. But instead of searching for a solution to the country's burning problems, the Duarte regime continues to resort to terror and repression. Only last year troops and the secret police killed more than 1,500 Salvadorans, almost 500 people were tossed into prison, and nearly 200 were missing. More than 1,000 peaceful inhabitants were subjected to rigorous torture. There were hundreds of children, women, and old people among the dead and tormented.

The partisans answer the brutality of the Army with active military operations. In January alone the rebels put about 500 troops out of action. Having successfully repulsed the attacks of the regime's crack battalions, the patriots have cut and control up to 90 percent of the country's transport arteries, including the Pan-American highway. The "Phoenix" operation is failing.